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November 9, 2001

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Commissioner for Patents November 9, 2001
Washington, D.C. 20231

Applicant: Willett, Kevin R.
Serial No.: 09/839,887
Date Filed: April 20, 2001
Title: CONTIGUOUS COLLIQUEFACTION FORMING A SURFACE
FILM FOR A COMPOSITE STRIP

Transmittal of a Transmittal Letter for a Renewed Petition, an Information
Disclosure Statement including copies of cited references, a Preliminary
Amendment and Detailed Discussion is hereby received and acknowledged.

Willett, Kevin R.\85939.000193\BBS

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Willett, Kevin R.

Atty. Docket: 85939.000193

Serial No.: 09/839,887

Examiner:

Filed: April 20, 2001

Art Unit: 3634

Title: CONTIGUOUS COLLIQUEFACTION FORMING A SURFACE FILM FOR A COMPOSITE STRIP

Renewed Petition Under MPEP §708.02 VIII

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Decision on Petition (Paper No. 3) mailed October 19, 2001, wherein the pre-examination search was found deficient for failing to "cover all areas searchable by the examiner", the present renewed petition is made.

In the Decision on Petition, Class 428, Subclasses 143, 220, 323, 327-332, 337, 339, 457, 461, and Class 428, Subclasses 500 and 515 were identified as areas that are searchable by the examiner.

Applicant has made a pre-examination search of Class 428, Subclasses 143, 220, 323, 327-332, 337, 339, 457, 461 and Class 428, Subclasses 500 and 515.

This supplemental pre-examination search located U.S. Patents No. Re. 32,261, 4,027,066, 4,210,565, 4,442,156, 4,551,381, 4,753,829, 4,994,327, 5,143,772, 5,202,191, 5,376,454, 5,554,439, 5,725,941, 5,800,912, and 5,827,608. These patents, as well as those disclosed in the original Petition, are discussed in the Detailed Discussion of the references under 37 C.F.R. §1.02 and MPEP 708.02 VIII (E) that accompany the Renewed Petition.


Therefore, applicant respectfully request favorable reconsideration in this Renewed Petition as a pre-examination search has been made listing the field of search by class and subclass and including all the areas searchable by the examiner set forth in the Decision on Petition mailed October 19, 2001 (Paper 3). A copy of each of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims is made of record.

Similarly, a detailed discussion of the references pursuant to MPEP 708.02 VIII (E) has been submitted with respect to each of these references.

Therefore, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Petition and granting of the special status.

Although applicant does not believe any fee is necessary, if a fee is required to process this Renewed Petition, please charge Deposit Account No. 03-3875, 85939.000193.

Respectfully submitted,



Brian B. Shaw, Registration No. 33,782
HARTER, SECREST & EMERY LLP
1600 Bausch & Lomb Place
Rochester, New York 14604

Date: November 9, 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Detailed Discussion Pursuant to MPEP 708.02 VIII (E)

U.S. Patent RE 32,261

The '261 patent fails to disclose "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquefied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body...." (Claims 1-4); "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquefaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion." (Claims 5-9); "A weatherseal comprising a colliquefaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal." (Claims 10-19); "A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising

an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquefaction of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); “A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal.” (Claims 27-28); “A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); “A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, applicant believes the ‘261 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 4,027,066

U.S. Patent No. 4,027,066 (the ‘066 patent) discloses a thermosetting polymer powder coating composition. The powder coating of the ‘066 patent is applied to exterior finishes of automobile and truck bodies, (Col. 2, Lines 6-8) including metal, glass, plastic or fiber reinforced plastic. (Col. 6, Lines 21-23)

The ‘066 patent fails to disclose “An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquefied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body...” (Claims 1-4); “An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquefaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion.” (Claims 5-9); “A weatherseal comprising a colliquefaction of a powder

coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal.” (Claims 10-19); “A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquefaction of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); “A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal.” (Claims 27-28); “A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); “A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, applicant believes the ‘066 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 4,210,565

U.S. Patent No. 4,210,565 (the ‘565 patent) discloses coating compositions and particularly to improved cross-linked coatings carried on a rigid substrate. (Col. 2, Lines 15-16) A further object of the ‘565 patent is to provide an article of manufacture comprising a rigid substrate coated with the improved cross-linked coating. (Col. 2, Lines 17-19)

The ‘565 patent fails to disclose “An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquefied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body....” (Claims 1-4); “An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and

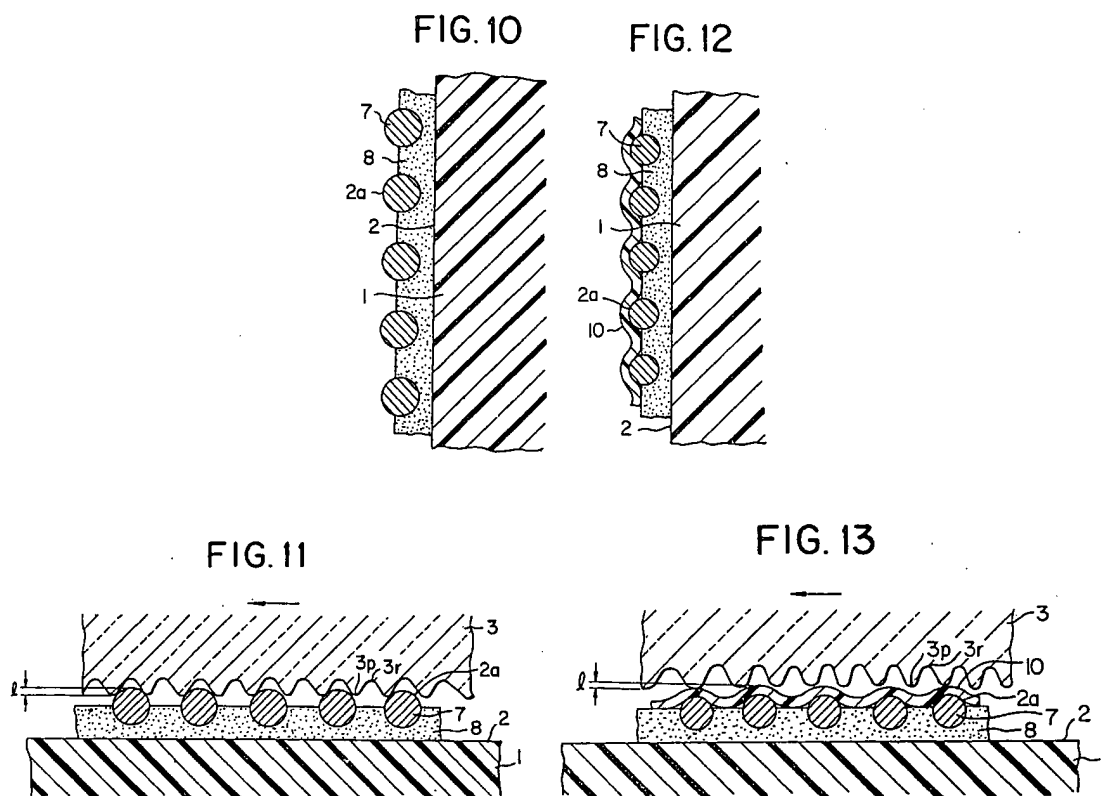
a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliuefaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion.” (Claims 5-9); “A weatherseal comprising a colliuefaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal.” (Claims 10-19); “A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliuefication of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); “A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal.” (Claims 27-28); “A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); “A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliuefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, applicant believes the ‘565 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 4,442,156

U.S. Patent No. 4,442,156 (the ‘156 patent) discloses a painted bonding agent and sprayed or painted particles 7 over the bonding agent. (Col. 1, Lines 57-62) Although the paint is cured by heating, as seen in Figures 10 and 11, there is no continuous surface. That is, the paint is applied as a liquid and the entrained particles do not form a continuous surface. With respect to the thermoplastic synthetic resin film 10 of Figure 12 and 13, the film 10 is a thermoplastic resin film that is coated onto the particles 7. (Col. 7,

lines 3-5; 13-15) Specifically, “a thermoplastic resin such as acryl, styrene or nylon is *painted* over the rough surface 2a formed by a bonding agent 8 mixed with particles 7 by a second roller painting machine 35, in order to form a resin film 10 thereon.” [emphasis added] (Col. 9, lines 55-59)



The '156 patent fails to disclose “An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquefied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body....” (Claims 1-4); “An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquefaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion.” (Claims 5-9); “A weatherseal comprising a colliquefaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal.” (Claims 10-19); “A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquefication of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-

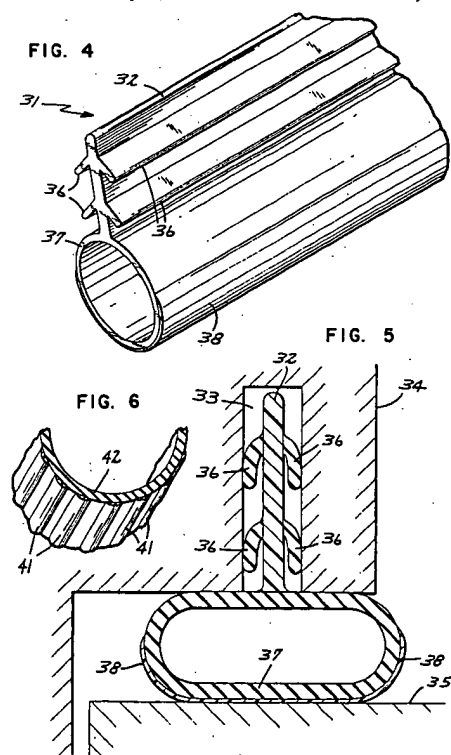
26); "A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal." (Claims 27-28); "A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); "A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, applicant believes the '156 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 4,538,380

U.S. Patent No. 4,538,380 (the '380 patent) discloses a weather seal having a base member and a sealing member formed of a thermoplastic elastomer. A thin film is disposed about the sealing member. The weather seal is integrally formed in a single extrusion of continuous length. Further, the '380 patent states it is preferred that the various components of the weather seal be made from materials that are extrudable, thus permitting the weather seal 31 to be

U.S. Patent Sep. 3, 1985 Sheet 2 of 2 4,538,380



integrally formed in a single extrusion.

The '380 patent does not disclose and, in fact, applicant respectfully submits teaches away from "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquesfied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body...." (Claims 1-4); "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquesfaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion." (Claims 5-9); "A weatherseal comprising a colliquesfaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal." (Claims 10-19); "A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquesfaction of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); "A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal." (Claims 27-28); "A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); "A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquesfying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, the '380 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 4,551,381 (the '381 patent) discloses a coating film constructed of a basic thin layer of flexible fibrous material, a layer of liquid coating material applied to the basic layer of fibrous material and a layer of powder coating material on the layer of liquid coating material.

After the powder coating material is uniformly distributed over the surface layer of the liquid coating material, the layer structure including the layer of powder coating material subjected to heat treatment until the latter is molten and then cured after cooling. (Col. 1, Lines 42-52) The fibrous material for the basic layer includes unwoven cloth, ordinary cloth, composite sheet material of unwoven cloth and plastic film adhesively secured to one another, flexible and tough paper. (Col. 1, Lines 53-57)

The '381 patent fails to disclose "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquefied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body...." (Claims 1-4); "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquefaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion." (Claims 5-9); "A weatherseal comprising a colliquefaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal." (Claims 10-19); "A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising

FIG. 1

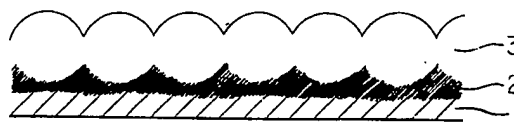


FIG. 2

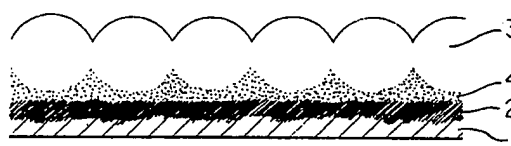


FIG. 3

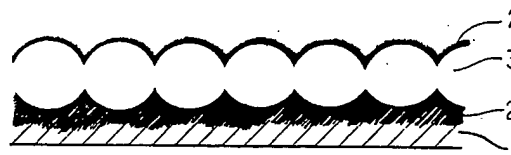
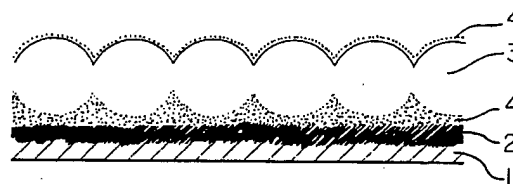


FIG. 4



an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquefaction of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); “A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal.” (Claims 27-28); “A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); “A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, the ‘381 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 4,753,829

U.S. Patent No. 4,753,829 (the ‘829 patent) discloses a coating composition for a substrate such as glass, ceramics, paper, wood and even plastic material, depending on the drying or curing requirements of the particular composition. (Col. 2, Lines 56-61) In the ‘829 patent, “the coating system of the present invention is particularly adapted for metal substrates, and specifically as an automotive *paint* finish system. The substrate may also be bare substrate material or can be conventionally primed, for example to impart corrosion resistance. Exemplary metal substrates include such things as steel, aluminum, copper, magnesium, alloys thereof, etc.” [emphasis added] (Col. 2, lines 61-68) The basecoat and clear topcoat of the ‘829 patent are applied by brushing, spraying, dipping, flow coating. (Col. 8, Lines 57-63) Subsequently, the applied coats may be baked sufficient to drive off solvents and to cure and cross-link thermosetting layers. (Col. 9, Lines 51-57)

The '829 patent fails to disclose "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquefied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body...." (Claims 1-4); "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquefaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion." (Claims 5-9); "A weatherseal comprising a colliquefaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal." (Claims 10-19); "A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquefaction of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); "A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal." (Claims 27-28); "A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); "A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, the '829 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 4,945,123

U.S. Patent No. 4,945,123 (the '123 patent) discloses a coating composition for treating high molecular elastic material to provide wear resistance and durability but with

a low coefficient of friction. The coating of the '123 patent includes a urethane coating material, a silicone oil, a fluorocarbon resin powder and a polyethylene powder.

The '123 patent does not disclose “An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquefied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body....” (Claims 1-4); “An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquefaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion.” (Claims 5-9); “A weatherseal comprising a colliquefaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal.” (Claims 10-19); “A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquefication of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); “A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal.” (Claims 27-28); “A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); “A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, applicant believes the '123 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 4,994,327

U.S. Patent No. 4,994,327 (the '327 patent) discloses a paint containing metal metallic powder and color pigment and subsequently applying a topcoat containing a vinyl polymer . . . (Col. 1, Lines 17-18). The *paint* can be applied to "the substrate is iron, aluminum, and other metals; wood and artificial woodlike materials; and thermosetting and thermoplastic moldings with priming, rust preventive treatment, or insect-proofing treatment." [emphasis added] (Col. 1, lines 55-59)

The '327 patent fails to disclose "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquesfied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body...." (Claims 1-4); "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquesfaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion." (Claims 5-9); "A weatherseal comprising a colliquesfaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal." (Claims 10-19); "A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquesfication of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); "A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal." (Claims 27-28); "A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); "A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on

the weatherseal; and ... colliquefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, applicant believes the '327 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 5,143,772

U.S. Patent No. 5,143,772 (the '772 patent) discloses a decorative coating layer which can have a cloth-like or leather-like decorative surface on a rubber substrate of EPDM. In a preferred configuration, a foamed PVC composition is applied to an adhesive layer which is formed on the main body of a rubber EPDM article. (Col. 2, Lines 44-52)

The '772 patent fails to disclose "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquefied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body...." (Claims 1-4); "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquefaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion." (Claims 5-9); "A weatherseal comprising a colliquefaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal." (Claims 10-19); "A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquefication of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); "A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal." (Claims 27-28); "A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to

attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); "A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32). Therefore, the '772 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 5,202,191

U.S. Patent No. 5,202,191 (the '191 patent) discloses a topcoat paint for iron, aluminum and other metals; wood and artificial wood-like materials; and thermosetting and thermal plastic moldings with priming, rust preventative treatment or insect proofing treatment. (Col. 1, Lines 59-63) The '191 patent is a continuation of the '327 patent and thus provides the same disclosure.

Therefore, the '191 patent fails to disclose "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquefied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body...." (Claims 1-4); "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquefaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion." (Claims 5-9); "A weatherseal comprising a colliquefaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal." (Claims 10-19); "A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquefication of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); "A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal." (Claims 27-28); "A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient

body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); "A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, applicant believes the '191 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 5,306,537

U. S. Patent No. 5,306,537 (the '537 patent) discloses a wear resistant coating for a glass run channel. Specifically,

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5,306,537

the '537 patent provides a thermoplastic powder material applied to a thermoset rubber substrate. The combination is then heated to a temperature and for a time to cause the powder thermoplastic to melt and associate in free-formed domains on the rubber surface to form a discontinuous coating heat fused to the substrate. The resulting article of the '537 patent is a low friction wear resistant discontinuous coating for a glass run weather strip or the like. Further, the '537 patent states "the domains are preferably

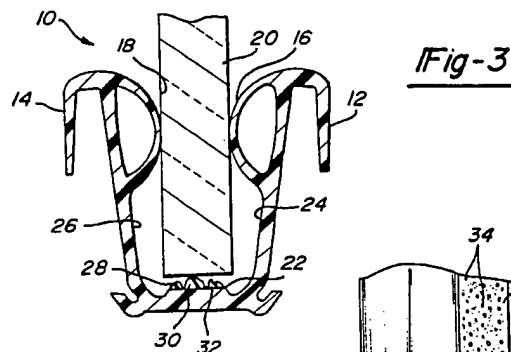


Fig-3

Fig-4

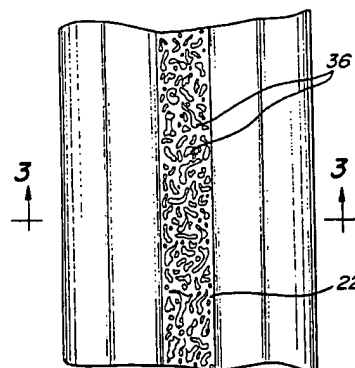
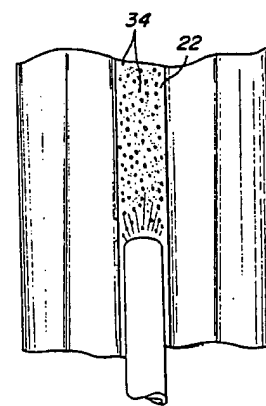


Fig-5

discontinuous along the rubber layer and are in various free-form domains randomly spaced about the base surface 22. (Col. 2, Lines 48-51) If a thicker coating is desired, greater quantities of the powder thermoplastic material can be utilized such that the domains run into one another and form a discontinuous coating with spaced load bearing portions of different heights. (Col. 2, Lines 64-69 and Col. 3, Line 1) The product shown in Figure 4 is heated to cause the powder thermoplastic to melt and associate into free form domains which are spaced randomly about the substrate. (Col. 3, Lines 15-19) "The thermoplastic utilized in the present invention may be of a type that when melted has a higher affinity to itself than the thermoset rubber to provide for association of the thermoplastic particles by flowing into one another and to free form domains that will not wet the thermoset substrate and form a continuous layer." (Col. 3, Lines 21-26).

That is, the '537 patent does not disclose "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquesfied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body...." (Claims 1-4); "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquefaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion." (Claims 5-9); "A weatherseal comprising a colliquefaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal." (Claims 10-19); "A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquefication of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); "A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal." (Claims 27-28); "A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient

body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); “A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, applicant believes the ‘537 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 5,376,454

U.S. Patent No. 5,376,454 (the ‘454 patent) discloses a surface coating for a weatherstrip wherein the surface coating includes a solid lubricant and a resin matrix. In the ‘454 patent, the solid lubricant, the resin matrix and the carrying agent may be coated while being disbursed or dissolved in an organic solvent. (Col. 3, Lines 4-8)

The ‘454 patent does not disclose “An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquefied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body....” (Claims 1-4); “An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquefaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion.” (Claims 5-9); “A weatherseal comprising a colliquefaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal.” (Claims 10-19); “A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquefication of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); “A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal.” (Claims 27-28); “A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface

charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); “A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, the ‘454 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 5,554,439

U.S. Patent No. 5,554,439 (the ‘439 patent) discloses a coating film having high brightness from a coating composition which comprises a liquid medium containing titanium dioxide.

The ‘439 patent fails to disclose “An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquefied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body....” (Claims 1-4); “An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquefaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion.” (Claims 5-9); “A weatherseal comprising a colliquefaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal.” (Claims 10-19); “A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquefication of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); “A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal.” (Claims 27-28); “A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface

charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); “A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, the ‘439 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 5,725,941

U.S. Patent No. 5,725,941 (the ‘941 patent) discloses a multi-layer coating to paint objects such as motor vehicles. The invention of the ‘941 patent makes use of a multi-layer coating system in which following application of a single layer, the applied material separates during the phase when it is still liquid into certain components, the latter separating into different layers and forming a multi-layer liquid film. (Col. 3, Lines 30-35)

Thus, the ‘941 patent fails to disclose “An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquefied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body....” (Claims 1-4); “An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquefaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion.” (Claims 5-9); “A weatherseal comprising a colliquefaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal.” (Claims 10-19); “A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquefication of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); “A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder

coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal.” (Claims 27-28); “A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); “A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, the ‘941 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 5,763,011

U.S. Patent No. 5,763,011 (the ‘011 patent) is a related patent to U.S. Patent No. 6,084,034. As the ‘011 patent and the ‘034 patent include the same disclosure, applicant respectfully resubmits the same distinctions from the ‘034 patent apply, and for purposes of clarity, has not reproduced the same analysis as the ‘034 patent.

Therefore, applicant believes the ‘011 patent cannot sustain rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 5,800,912

U.S. Patent No. 5,800,912 (the ‘912 patent) discloses a molded resin exhibiting high gloss, metallic luster and excellent water proofing and scratch resistance properties, thus eliminating the need for a coating process. (Col. 2, Lines 5-9) The ‘912 patent provides a high gloss molded resin formed of a core layer and a skin layer. The core layer is formed of a polypropylene composite material and the skin layer is formed of a mixture of polypropylene resin and a coloring agent. (Col. 2, Lines 9-14)

The ‘912 patent fails to disclose “An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquefied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body....” (Claims 1-4); “An automotive weatherseal,

comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliuefaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion.” (Claims 5-9); “A weatherseal comprising a colliuefaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal.” (Claims 10-19); “A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliuefication of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); “A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal.” (Claims 27-28); “A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); “A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliuefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, the ‘912 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 5,827,608

U.S. Patent No. 5,827,608 (the ‘608 patent) discloses a powder coating of thermoplastic powder for coating on a flexible two-dimensional (that is, capable of passing through a nip roll configuration) thermoplastic substrate. (Col. 2, Lines 9-12) The ‘608 patent solves problems in the art by providing a polymeric powder for preparing a thermoplastic layer that has useful properties as a protective layer on a flexible substrate for outdoor signage. (Col. 2, Lines 23-27)

The '608 patent fails to disclose "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquefied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body...." (Claims 1-4); "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquefaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion." (Claims 5-9); "A weatherseal comprising a colliquefaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal." (Claims 10-19); "A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquefication of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); "A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal." (Claims 27-28); "A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); "A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquefying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, the '608 patent cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

U.S. Patent No. 6,084,034

U. S. Patent No. 6,084,034 (the '034 patent) discloses a functional coating for reducing friction between a glass run and an automotive window glass. The coating of the '034 patent includes a urethane paint and a first powder having a melting point lower

than a certain temperature and a solubility parameter which is smaller than or larger than that of the urethane paint by at least 0.5. According to the first aspect of the invention of the '034 patent, distribution of particles of the first powder and the coating film, immediately after application of the coating is schematically shown in Figure 2.

When the coated glass run 10 is heated for vulcanization, the first powder particles 14 melt and thus increase in fluidity. As shown in Figure 3, the melted particles 14 tend to rise to the surface of the coating film 12. Then, the melted particles 14 of the first powder contract and solidify as the coated glass run cools down.

U.S. Patent

Jul. 4, 2000

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6,084,034

FIG.4

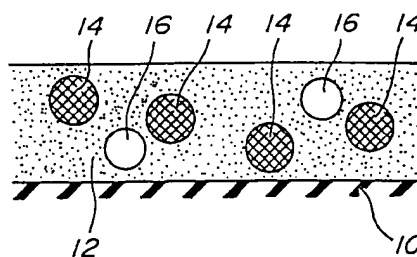
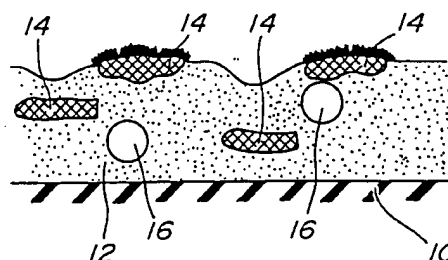


FIG.5



According to a second aspect of the invention of the '034 patent, first and second particles 14 and 16 are distributed immediately after application of the coating as shown in Figure 4.

When the coated glass run 10 is heated for vulcanization, particles 14 of the first powder melt and thus increase in fluidity. The melted particles 14 tend to rise to the surface of the coating film 12, as seen in Figure 5. Then, the melted particles 14 contract and solidify as the coated glass run 10 cools down.

In contrast, the present claims recite in part "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquesfied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body...." (Claims 1-4); "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first

elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquescence forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion.” (Claims 5-9); “A weatherseal comprising a colliquescence of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal.” (Claims 10-19); “A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquescence of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); “A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal.” (Claims 27-28); “A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); “A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquescing the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, applicant believes the ‘034 patent cannot sustain rejection of the present claims.

JP 6025604

Japanese application JP 6025604 (the ‘604 application) discloses a coating composition for forming a dull coating film with excellent abrasion resistance on the surface of a weatherstrip substrate. The composition includes an organopolysiloxane having two silanol groups in the molecule, and a spherical powder having a mean particle diameter of 50 micrometers or lower.

The '604 patent does not disclose "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquesfied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body...." (Claims 1-4); "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquesfaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion." (Claims 5-9); "A weatherseal comprising a colliquesfaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal." (Claims 10-19); "A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquesfication of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); "A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal." (Claims 27-28); "A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); "A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquesfying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, applicant believes the '604 application cannot sustain rejection of the present claims.

JP 2144227

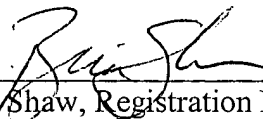
Japanese application No. JP 2144227 (the '227 application) discloses a sliding surface for a sealing member. The sealing member body is coated with an adhesive agent

for rubber to form an adhesive agent layer. A synthetic resin fine powder is then coated on the adhesive agent layer. Subsequently, the synthetic resin fine powder coating and adhesive agent film for the synthetic resin is floated and fluidized while the seal member body is formed with an adhesive agent layer is dipped into the synthetic resin fine powder.

The '227 application does not disclose "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a resilient elastomeric body; ... a colliquesfied powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on ... the resilient elastomeric body...." (Claims 1-4); "An automotive weatherseal, comprising ... a substrate having a first portion formed of a first elastomeric material and a second portion formed of a different second elastomeric material; and a powder coating colliquesfaction forming a contiguous surface layer bonded to the first portion and the second portion." (Claims 5-9); "A weatherseal comprising a colliquesfaction of a powder coating defining a contiguous surface film on a resilient elastomeric portion of the weatherseal." (Claims 10-19); "A weatherseal for ... an automotive vehicle, ... comprising an elastomeric base ... a resilient sealing portion ... a colliquesfaction of a powder coating forming a contiguous surface film on one of the base and the sealing portion. (Claims 20-26); "A method of forming a surface film on ... a weatherseal, comprising ... creating an electric potential between the portion of the weatherseal and powder coating ... exposing the powder coating to the electric potential to attach the powder coating to the portion of the weatherseal ... melting the powder coating ... to form a contiguous surface layer on ... the weatherseal." (Claims 27-28); "A method of forming a surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... forming a resilient body about an electrically conductive member ... exposing the electrically conductive member to an electrical potential to form a surface charge ... exposing the surface charge ... to an oppositely charged powder coating to attract the powder coating to the resilient body ... melting the powder coating on the resilient body to form a contiguous surface layer (Claim 29); "A method of forming a contiguous surface film on a weatherseal, comprising ... retaining a powder coating on the weatherseal; and ... colliquesfying the retained powder coating to form a contiguous surface film. (Claim 30-32).

Therefore, applicant believes the '227 application cannot sustain a rejection of the present claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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